

November 5, 2004

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, 2nd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Re: 03-88A, 03-88B, 03-88C, 03-88D, 03-88E, 03-88F; Costs that Should Be Included in Default Service.

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

NSTAR Electric Company, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Company, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, and Western Massachusetts Electric Company and the Attorney General (the "Parties") are engaged in settlement discussions aimed at resolving the issues pending in the above referenced proceedings. Under the procedural schedule established by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (the "Department"), evidentiary hearings are to begin on November 30, 2004. The Parties are pleased to inform the Department that they have made considerable progress, and are drafting settlement documents. In order to permit sufficient time for the Parties to complete their settlement negotiations, and to present a settlement proposal to other intervenors, they jointly request the hearing dates be deferred.

Accordingly, the Parties request that the Department defer the commencement of hearings until January 11, 2005. If the Parties have not filed a settlement agreement by January 4, 2005, they will provide a status report.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Colleen McConnell
Assistant Attorney General

cc: William H. Stevens, Jr., Hearing Officer
John J. Geary, Hearing Officer
Robert Werlin, Esq.
Gary Epler, Esq.
Amy Rabinowitz, Esq.
Stephen Klionsky, Esq.
Service List